Aug-16-04 01:09pm From-Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. Los Angeles, CA

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T-189 P.001/013

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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| TO: | U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Examiner: Brian J. Sines Art Unit: 1743 | DATE: August 16, 2004 | |
|-------|--|-----------------------|--|
| FROM: | Barry M. Shuman/Wei-Ning Yang | TIME: | |
| TOTAL | NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: | 13 | |

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MESSAGE:

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/915,865; Attorney Ref: 81841.0155 I hereby certify that the following documents:

- Amendment
- Amendment Transmittal Letter

are being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, for filing in the above application.

> August 16, 2004 Date of Deposit

703-872-9306 - Art Unit 1743 TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER: 81841.0155 CLIENT NUMBER: ATTORNEY BILLING NUMBER: 6085 703-305-0401 (please return fax to Diane Zynn) CONFIRMATION NUMBER:

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AUG 1 6 2004

Patent Application No. 09/915,865 Attorney Docket No. 81841 0155

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr. et al.

Serial No: 09/915,865

Filed: July 26, 2001

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBJECT-For:

ORIENTED REAL-TIME MECHANICAL CONTROL OF

AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY INSTRUMENTS

Art Unit: Examiner: 1743

Brian J. Sines

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306: Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

August 16, 2004 Date of Deposit

Diane Zynn

Date Signature

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

Small entity status has been claimed. See 37 CFR § 1.27.

A Notice Of Change Of Attorney's Address and Associate Power Of Attorney is enclosed.

No additional fee is required.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is

enclosed. Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims Ø

Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

Respectfully submitted, HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: August 16, 2004

Biltmore Tower 500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900 Los Angeles, California 90071

Telephone: 213 337-6700 Facsimile: 213 337-6701

Wei-Ning/Yang (Contact Person)

Registration No. 38,690 Attorney for Applicant(s) Barry M. Shuman

Registration No. 50,220

Amdt. Dated August 16, 2004 Reply to Office Action of May 14, 2004

Patent Application No. 09/915,865 Attorney Docket No. 81841.0155 (2009-174)

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TENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AUG 1 6 2004

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr. et al.

Serial No:

09/915,865

For:

Filed: July 26, 2001

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

OBJECT-ORIENTED REAL-TIME MECHANICAL CONTROL OF AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY

INSTRUMENTS

Art Unit:

1743

Examiner:

Brian J. Sines

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Commissioner for Paten™

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

August 16, 2004 Date of Deposit

Diane Zynn

Name

Signature

Date

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 14, 2004, please amend the abovereferenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.